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MARION, OHIO, THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 14, 1908.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

SAYS HE WILL DELIVER MRS. BELLE GUNNESS TO THE OFFICERS FOR \$5,000

Milwaukee Man Writes to Sheriff Smutzer Telling Him the Mistress of the "Port of Missing Men" is Alive and He Can Lay His Hand on Her.

A Cleveland Man Writes, Telling of Having Been Approached by a Man, Supposedly an Accomplice of Mrs. Gunness, Who Sought to Lure Him to the Farm Near Laporte—Doctors are Still Undecided on the Question of Whether or not the Arch Murderess Met Death in the Flames—Lamphere's Attorney Says the Suspect Never Confessed and That He Has Nothing to Confess.

Laporte, Ind., May 14.—Sheriff Smutzer today received a letter from Milwaukee signed "John Williamson," in which the writer states that Mrs. Gunness is alive, that he knows where she is and will turn over to the police within three days if a reward of \$5,000 is offered.

Laporte, Ind., May 14.—Denials by Laporte officials that the Rev. Dr. E. A. Schell had revealed to them the substance of his conversations with Lamphere, and the discovery of evidence that Mrs. Bella Gunness was aided by an accomplice in luring her victims to the farm, were the chief developments in the case.

In addition H. W. Worden, attorney for the prisoner, issued a formal statement that he had given his client strict injunctions not to discuss the charges against him and concluding:

"The fact is that Lamphere has never made a confession to anyone and never will. He has nothing to confess."

The evidence regarding the aids of Mrs. Gunness came in a letter from a resident of Cleveland addressed to the local chief of police Clinton Cochrane. It told of the writer having met a stranger in that city last August who gave him a photograph of "a rich widow who resided in Laporte," and tried to persuade him to come here to see the woman. The photograph is a fairly good likeness of Mrs. Gunness and was evidently taken some time ago. It is a small negative which seems to have been cut from a photograph, the arm

and hand of a man extending across the background and resting on her shoulder.

The letter in full follows:

"Cleveland, O., May 12, 1908. To Chief of Police, Laporte, Ind. Dear Sir:—Last August, while waiting for a street car in our public square, I was approached by a gentleman who commenced a conversation with me. After a while he stated that he was in this city on speculation, and that his home was in Chicago, Ill., but that he could do business in Cleveland. After some time he endeavored to find out regarding my family, etc., and asked me if I was married. In a spirit of fun, I said no and he immediately commenced to tell me about a rich widow who resided in Laporte, Ind., who was looking for a man. He claimed she was the owner of a large ranch stocked with cattle and that she was looking for a man."

"When I asked him why she could not get a man there, he replied that she did not want a man from that part of the country, and he also stated that if I was willing both he and I would get on a train and go there at once. When I said I did not like to do that he said if I would pay the fare for the lady she would come at once, and I could see for myself."

"He also gave me a picture of the lady, who was supposed to be looking for a husband, which I enclose herewith, and I do this merely thinking that I might be of assistance in the matter of Mrs. Gunness."

This man claimed that Chicago

Illinois, was his home, and he was about 25 or 35 years of age, five feet three or four, weight about 160 pounds, reddish complexion, smooth face, dark hair and wore a black soft hat, blue suit and had the general appearance of a man pretty well to do, being well dressed and would make a good impression.

"I forgot the matter entirely it being merely a matter of fun on my part, until the newspapers came out about the wholesale murders in Laporte when this occurrence came back to my mind. I thought best to write particulars as it possibly would be of assistance to you and I would be able to identify the man, should I be called on. I called on the chief of police of Cleveland, O., this morning, Mr. Fred Kohler and he advised my writing you as above. If I can be of any assistance advise me. Kindly return photograph if you have no use for it."

The photograph enclosed was a good likeness of Mrs. Gunness and it is probable that the Cleveland man will be asked to give further particulars of his experience.

Other developments in the case were: Thomas Blackburn, of Amboy, Ind., was discovered to be the man whom Ray Lamphere said he saw on the Guenther road the morning of the fire. Blackburn was accompanied by his wife and son. The time of his departure from the home of a relative showed that the meeting must have occurred on Page Four.

NEGRO SHOTS YOUNG LADY AND HER MOTHER

Pueblo, Colo., May 14.—James Lynn, colored, today chased Mrs. Julia James and her mother into the street, shot the daughter dead and fatally wounded the mother. He escaped. Posses of citizens is after the negro. They will lynch him if he is caught.

INDIA AROUSED

Unconfirmed Rumor Says Ruler of Afghanistan was Assassinated

London, May 14.—Rumors that Amir Habib Ullah Khan, of Afghanistan, has been assassinated and that his violently anti-British brother Nasr Ullah Khan, reigns in his stead, was received here today. Cables to India and the telegraph to the northern frontier are being kept hot with demands for a confirmation of the reports. The Indian government is much excited.

TRUST CO. ASSIGNS

Financial Stringency is Given as the Cause for Closing the Doors.

Cleveland, O., May 14.—Giving the "financial stringency" as the cause, the Reserve Trust Company made an assignment, Thursday, and closed its doors. The deed of assignment was made to the Superior Savings and Trust company and places its liabilities at \$2,700,000 and assets at a like amount. The announcement is made that the assets will probably be sufficient to pay all depositors in full.

BOTH ARE FOR TAFT

Two Factions in California are United on the One Proposition.

Sacramento, Calif., May 14.—President Roosevelt's administration will be endorsed and the delegates to the National convention at Chicago will

be instructed to vote for Secretary Taft, by the Republican state convention, which meets here this afternoon. There are two factions, but both are for Taft.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BISHOP HORSTMANN'S FUNERAL

Cleveland, O., May 14.—The body of Bishop Horstmann will be brought to Cleveland from Canton, this week, and funeral services will be held at St. John's cathedral, Tuesday. The body will lie in state at the cathedral all day Monday. It is expected that over four hundred priests and other Catholic dignitaries from Ohio and neighboring states will be at the funeral.

POLICE BEAT-UP

Rival Factions in Third District Hold Conventions Today.

Eaton, O., May 14.—Republicans of the Third congressional district are holding two conventions here today. The Bleser forces from Montgomery county took forcible possession of the city hall early this morning after battering up six special policemen. Congressman Harding and his delegates are meeting at the court house. Each convention has completed its organization and it is expected both sides will name congressional candidates. It is predicted that Harding will be named by his forces and H. G. Catrow by the opposition.

JOHN D., A, SOCIALIST

This is the Accusation Made at the University of Chicago.

Chicago, May 14.—"John D. Rockefeller is a Socialist?" declared Robert Hunter, of New York, in an impassioned speech to the students to the University of Chicago today. "Not only is this so," he continued, "but he is now on record as opposing the reactionary movement in the American colleges of today." Rev. Charles F. Aked, pastor of Rockefeller's church in New York, is admittedly a socialist and it was because of that fact that the Standard Oil magnate brought him to America. Hunter intimated that the socialist movement in America will yet benefit by the Rockefeller mill. Hons.

FIFTY PERSONS KILLED; HUNDREDS INJURED

Tornado Sweeps Over a Portion of Louisiana Wednesday Night Carrying Death and Destruction in Its Teeth—Town of Gilliam Wiped Out and Two Others Badly Damaged—Relief Trains Rushed to the Scene.

Shreveport, La., May 14.—The town of Gilliam, thirty miles north of Shreveport, is reported wiped out by tornado and a number of persons killed. A relief train has been sent.

Latest advices say that all houses in Gilliam except two are demolished. Gilliam is a village of about 100 inhabitants.

Little Rock, Ark., May 14.—The Postal Telegraph Co. here has received a message saying that about half of the inhabitants of Gilliam either have been killed or injured and urging that relief be sent at once.

Shreveport, La., May 14.—Caddo and Bossier parishes present a scene of desolation today as a result of a tornado which swept them last night. The town of Gilliam was wiped out. Boltinger was badly wrecked and Hill City damaged. Fifty persons are reported killed and hundreds injured.

Wires are down and details of the disaster are unobtainable. Relief trains, carrying doctors and nurses are expected to return here today with the dead and injured. Hospitals have prepared to receive the maimed.

CLAIM A DEAL WAS MADE WITH WALL STREET

Enemies of Secretary Taft Set up the Claim That an Attorney for the Steel Trust Wrote the Hepburn Bill and That the Support of the Administration was the Price Paid for Wall Street's Support of the War Secretary.

Washington, May 14.—Frank H. Hitchcock, Taft's esteem manager, claims enough votes to nominate his candidates on the first ballot and ninety-one to spare. This is the second statement Hitchcock has let go over his own signature. The first one issued several weeks ago promised the public that Taft would have enough votes to nominate on the first ballot.

Simultaneously, from the press bureau of the allies, comes the claim of proof that Taft's managers made a deal with Wall-st. interests for support. The specific case cited is the steel trust. It is charged that Francis Lynde Stetson, attorney for the steel trust, wrote the Hepburn bill, amending the Sherman anti-trust act, that J. P. Morgan and E. H. Gary of the United States Steel Co., approved it, and that this bill was the price of their support.

It is a bill for which President

Roosevelt has made himself responsible and one which Speaker Cannon and the house leaders refuse to let pass.

The press agent of the allies, E. B. Johns, makes this charge on the authority of E. B. Martin, national secretary of the American Anti-Trust league. Mr. Martin will make an argument Saturday against the Hepburn bill before the senate judiciary committee. Johns quotes Mr. Martin as saying:

"I have secured what appears to me conclusive evidence that immunity has been promised to the great interests in Wall-st. I will ask the senate committee to give me an opportunity to produce my evidence."

This attack from the camp of the allied favorite sons shows that they have not yet accepted the result claimed by Hitchcock as final, although men like Aldrich, Hale and Crane have.

FORAKER CLAIMS VICTORY IN BROWNSVILLE FIGHT

Further Consideration of the Matter is Postponed Until Next December—The Ohio Senator Says He Could Have Won Yesterday but Allowing the Question to go Over Makes Victory More Certain.

Washington, May 14.—The further consideration of the Brownsville affair today was postponed by the senate until December 16 next. This decision was reached after an extended exchange of views among senators. Mr. Foraker, after urging the appointment of an early day of voting on his bill moved that it be taken up next December.

After a motion by Senator Culberson, of Texas, to vote on the bill next Saturday was laid on the table, Mr. Foraker's motion was adopted by a vote of 62 to 6.

Mr. Foraker gave out a statement saying that while he could not have passed the bill now, he thinks he has insured its passage by the postponement.

Just before the senate adjourned for the day Senator Bulkeley gave notice that on Monday next he would ask the senate to take up the Warner bill, authorizing the president to restore to duty such members of the

battalion of negro soldiers implicated in the Brownsville affair as he believes to have been guiltless.

Senator Bulkeley is intensely dissatisfied with the action taken by Senator Foraker in permitting the Brownsville matter to go over until next session, and expects to make known his views on the subject in an address to the senate. His notice was coupled with the statement that he would expect to get action on the matter at the present session of congress. His position manifestly is impossible in view of the vote of the senate today.

Senator Rayner's resolution, directing the president to appoint a court of inquiry to investigate the case of Col. William F. Stewart of the army now stationed at Fort Grant, Ariz., was referred to the committee on military affairs with an understanding that Senator Rayner will appear before that committee to make a further statement on the Stewart case.

BRYAN MEN INSIST ON CONSERVATIVE ACTION

Unless the Opposition Becomes Radical, the Commoner's Followers will not Bolt the Convention at St. Paul—Bryan May be Indorsed as Second Choice at the Minnesota Democratic Convention.

St. Paul, May 14.—It has become doubtful whether or not the followers of William J. Bryan will bolt the Democratic state convention two days ago it was tentatively agreed among them that such action should be taken if their contesting delegates were not seated in the convention. Yesterday, however, the sentiment against such a step has largely increased.

A conference of the Bryan leaders was held Wednesday at the Merchants hotel and in the evening National Committeeman T. T. Hudson, who presided in the meeting, gave out the following statement:

"The course of the Bryan men will depend upon the action of the convention. If the action of the convention does not seem to be right, we will call the Bryan men to withdraw for a conference at which further steps can be determined."

The altered state of feeling is due partly to a report that Bryan has advised National Committeeman Hudson that he does not deem highly radical action as favorable to his interests and also to the pronounced opinion of many Bryan people that the sending of a contesting convention to Denver will be "bad politics" that will destroy all chance of Bryan carrying Min-

nesota this fall if he is nominated at Denver.

National Committeeman Hudson would neither affirm nor deny that he had been urged by Mr. Bryan to take none but a conservative action. He admitted having received recent letters from Bryan and allowed it to be inferred that matters in this state had been left almost entirely to the discretion of Mr. Bryan's lieutenants.

Frank Larrabee, of Minneapolis, is an ardent supporter of Mr. Bryan, and declared while the conference in the Merchants hotel was in progress that it was too late for Mr. Bryan to call off his followers declaring they would fight it out no matter what word might come from their chief.

There is a strong feeling among the Bryan people, and it is shared to some extent by a few Johnson men, that it may be possible to indorse Bryan as a "second choice." There is, however, only an infinitely small chance of this being done. The Johnson men have such an overwhelming majority of the delegates in today's convention that there is no chance of the Bryan people getting anything beyond what the Johnson following is pleased to give them, and the Johnson following is disposed to give them nothing.

